

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Chair Styka, Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Turimella, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Whiting-Dobson

ABSENT: Commissioner Maingu

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A: Chair Styka called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Accepted as written.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Langhals moves to approve the July 10, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Vice-Chair Robinson. Motion Carried 6-0

4. OLD BUSINESS

A: Recent Events

i: Back to School Supplies & Backpacks

- The event went very well. Thank you to Rotary and Kiwanis for each donating \$2500.00 towards this event.
- We donated 48 filled backpacks and the rest a combination of school supplies, hygiene kits, reusable water bottles, etc.
- Each of the 12 buildings received a \$125.00 Meijer food only gift card to purchase snacks for their buildings.
- Dave Rainone from the Haslett-Okemos Kiwanis Club has committed \$2500.00 to this project for 2025.
- The communications department created a video of the event, and it was shared on the Township and Cares Facebook page.

B: Intergenerational Art Project

- Jen Baker, Art Teacher at Bennett Woods is interested in collaborating with Meridian Cares on this project.
- Timing would be best for after the 1st of the year.
- Commissioner Webster will contact Jen Baker.

C: Coat Drive: September Recycling Day September 21 9am-1pm

- The Coat Drive is going on now.
- Collaboration with Okemos Community Church, they are collecting names and needs.
- The communications department is making a video to advertise.
- We will also be collecting coats, winter boots and snowpants at the Recycling event on 9/21, outside in the parking area between the Farmers Market and JC Penny.

D: Application to join the CRC

- I reached out to Daiah Williams who was interested in joining the CRC. I never heard back from her. She is welcome to attend any future meetings.

E: Monetary pledge to Meridian Cares

- The letter sent to Mr. Walsh is available in the meeting packet as well as his response.
- Based upon the letter from Mr. Walsh, Human Services Specialist Love and the commissioners discussed moving on from this pledge and not planning on this money to be donated.

F: Mobile Health Clinic

- Commissioner Webster and Commissioner Langhals attended the August 20th event at Cedar Creek. The event had a slow start, but traffic picked up and they ended up staying until 5:30 P.M.
- Possibility to improve communication to local area.
 - Communications through Okemos Public Schools.
 - Communication through the Library
 - Anyone in the community can attend these mobile clinics.
- Currently have 4 more planned through coordination with Meridian Cares.
 - September 27: Grange Acres
 - October 3: Cedar Creek Apartments
 - October 25: Grange Acres
 - October 29: Edgewood Village Apartments.
- Human Services Specialist Love will create a sign-up genius for Commissioners to sign up to bring prepackaged snacks and fruit for events.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A: Holiday Food Assistance

- The applications for Holiday food assistance have been distributed to contacts.
- Meridian Cares serves as the connector between the residents in need and those who can sponsor them.
- As of 9/11/24 we have \$8,264.82 in cash for the Holiday Food Basket Project.
- There will most likely be more work for the CRC and ACTION group this year to help distribute food and food gift cards.

2024 Holiday Food Basket Sponsors as of 9/11/24

Grewal Law	\$1000 donation	Received
Meridian Company	\$500 donation	Received
Ideal Mortgage	Planned monetary donation	No
Faith Lutheran	Planned monetary donation (\$1000.00)	No
Okemos Pres	Planned monetary donation (LY 1855)	No
New Hope	Food Collection	
St. Lukes	THX Food Dist. to Carriage Lane/Grange Acres	
Rotary	Holiday Food Dist. To Grange Acres	
Shafer Dental	Sponsoring Families with meals	
Red Cedar Church	Sponsoring Families at Winslow Mobile Home	
Okemos Comm. Church	Sponsoring Families who used Okemos Pantry	
Federau Group	Food Collection	
CCW Group	Food Collection	

B: Santa's First Responders Holiday Event

- December 14th from 12-1:30 p.m. at Murphy Elementary School.
- The event is for neighbors in need. It is catered for by Olive Garden. The children are given high value toys.
- Meridian Cares has been asked to provide some grocery compliments for neighbors to take home with their frozen donated venison. Expect 100 families.
 - Ideas: Hamburger helper, spaghetti sauce, noodles, taco seasoning
 - Possibility of getting donations from Toms, Kroger, Meijer etc..

C: Fundraising Ideas

- Sale proceeds from Culvers, Wendy's, food truck partnership.
- Culvers was a great fundraiser. Will reach out again.
- The police Department may do something at High Caliber for a fundraiser for Meridian Cares.
- If any ideas come to mind bring them to the next meetings.

6. HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

- Reports for July and August 2024 were available in the meeting packet.
- Numbers for emergency assistance were large for both months mainly because of lack of funding from the state.
- The Money Market account has been added to the report. The total is currently \$43,330.76. This is designated to the Emergency Needs Fund.
- Specialist Love will be going to the Board Meeting on 9/17/24 if there are questions regarding Meridian Cares during budget discussions.
- On occasion the Emergency Needs Fund will pay an amount to a resident to be reimbursed by another donor. When that donor gives the reimbursement, it shows up as a donation. Specialist Love notates these events on the Human Services report and in an excel spreadsheet, so it is clear how close we are to our budget.

7. BOARD LISASON REPORT

Youth Commission

- Several High School students have come to the Township interested in creating a Township Youth Commission.
- They want to learn about how government works and have a voice in the Township. Could be an opportunity to partnership on projects.

Senior/Community Center Update

- This is not going forward at Younkers. The costs were too high resulting in a costly milage.
- The possibility of going back to looking into property between the Central Fire Station and Post Office.
- Commissioner Whiting-Dobson suggested culling firewood on the property for people to use for heating etc.

8. OPEN FORUM

Discussion about the steps in the construction process at Okemos Public Schools.

9. ADJOURNEMENT

Vice-Chair Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M. with no opposition.